

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
April 21, 2021

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on April 21, 2021 beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was held in person and via Zoom due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

The meeting was posted on the door of the Courthouse and on the County website.

Commissioner's present: Bob DeMarois, Randy Eckloff and Don Piche in person, Jim Vivian/Central, Del Rajala/Mohawk.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to accept the agenda with one addition under New Business, item h) Keweenaw County Remonumentation Plan and Individual Contracts for 2021.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the March 17, 2021 regular monthly meeting minutes as written.

The following reports were available: Sheriff, Treasurer and Mine Inspector.

The Copper Harbor Trails Club (CHTC) had many representatives that addressed the Board regarding the bike trails on county property near Copper Harbor. There has been ongoing discussion between parties regarding selling the county property with permanent easements, and if that option is not ready, the CHTC would like to open the trails in early May. The question that keeps coming up by the county is liability. The following people spoke for various reasons in support of opening the bike trails: Sam Raymond, (Owner of Keweenaw Adventure Company), Ben Ciavola, (President of CHTC), Nathan Miller, (Executive Director of the CHTC), Jason Aric Jones, (advocate and member of the Michigan Mountain Biking Association), Aaron Rogers, (Owner/Contractor for Rock Solid Construction which is the largest trail contractor in the world), Scott Chapin, (Insurance Agent for approximately 250 bike clubs and he has worked exclusively with the biking industry for the last 13 years), Bob Wilson, (Attorney who assisted in writing the Michigan Recreational Trails Statute, and who is the Chairman of the Michigan Trails Advisory Council). Each person spoke asking for the trails to open, saying that these trails are the best in the Midwest, the trails are kept up by a maintenance crew, there will be more signs posted at trail heads, a bike patrol has begun training and that for the county to be liable for injuries, there would have to be gross negligence on behalf of the CHTC.

Public comment was received.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts; General Fund=\$178,116.95 Construction Codes Fund=\$1,593.64 911 Fund=\$222.12 Veterans Affairs=\$4,020.44 Medical Care Fund=\$1,968.24 Indigent Defense Fund=\$4,263.18 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Eckloff, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

John Parsons, Barry Koljonen and Ann Gasperich were present on behalf of the Planning Commission and wanted to know what the Board was thinking regarding zoning in the county. Mr. Parsons said the current ordinance is very complicated, but he still recognizes the need for zoning. If the county tries to simplify or edit the ordinance, a consultant may need to be hired. Mr. Koljonen did concur as it is too much for the planning commission to take on and there could be some legalities that the commission may not be aware of. Rajala stated that there are some parts of the ordinance that do not sit well with the people and he would like to address those concerns and complaints. Rajala will reach out to the townships to see what complaints they have and will also bring forward complaints that he hears about.

Elizabeth Anderson, Equalization Director for Keweenaw County presented the report for County Equalization. Overall, the county's equalized value went up 2.12%. The CEV (County Equalized Value) went from \$238,139,593 to \$243,294,223. The following rates were adopted as presented: Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to set the commercial CEV at \$12,951,295.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to set the industrial CEV at \$168,349.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to set the residential CEV at \$221,036,860.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to set the timber cut over at \$2,669,910.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to set the personal CEV at \$6,467,809.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the following budget amendments for 2020 as recommended by the County Treasurer:

<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Revenues Increase (Decrease)</u>	<u>Expenditures and Fund Balance Increase (Decrease)</u>
GENERAL FUND-Expenditures			
Elections	101-262-727	6,476.81	6,476.81
Federal Grant Revenue	101-528	14,586.67	
Federal Grant Revenue-Hazard Pay	101-528	6,000.00	

Motion by DeMarois seconded by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the Application for Private Road Development that was recommended by the Planning Commission and was also reviewed by Gregg Patrick, County Engineer at the Road Commission.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to adopt the conversion of the 2017 Future Land Use Map as the Keweenaw County Zoning Map effective May 1, 2021.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois to put the 1992 Pursuit boat out to bid after it is stripped down with bids being due at the May meeting. The money from the sale of this boat will go into the Marine Safety Program as the boat was acquired with grant money. This motion also allows the purchasing of equipment for the new boat now with the amounts will be deducted from the Marine Safety Program after the old boat is sold.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois to adopt the following resolution to extend the State of Emergency for the county through July 31, 2021.

WHEREAS, as of April 12, 2021, according to the Western Upper Peninsula Health Department, Keweenaw County had 131 positive COVID 19 cases, 32 probable COVID 19 cases, and two deaths; and WHEREAS, the COVID 19 pandemic continues and may worsen before the vaccination is available to everyone; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to redeclare and extend the Declaration of the State of Emergency through July 31, 2021.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners, in accordance with Section 10 of 1976 PA 390, as amended, hereby declares that a "state of emergency" exists within Keweenaw County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Declaration of State of Emergency shall continue in effect until July 31, 2021 unless extended or earlier terminated. Board polled. Ayes: Vivian, Rajala, DeMarois, Eckloff, Piche. **(#21-3)**

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to continue with the current procedure of having the doors of the Courthouse locked unless you have an appointment during the pandemic through July 31, 2021 unless rescinded beforehand.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the 2021 Keweenaw County Remonumentation Program and the listing for the individual contracts for Clearwater Surveying and CHN Surveying.

Time was allowed for public comment.

There being no further business, motion by Eckloff to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Donald Piche, Chairman

Julie Carlson, Clerk